

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0390

UNCLAS PARIS 12615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CDES, FR (BURCH, FRANCES GERALDINE)

REF: STATE 077759, TL OF 4/1/76 AND PARIS 09580

1. AMCIT FANCES GERALDINE BURCH DIED AT LA CELLE ST. CLOUD, FRANCE SOME TIME PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 7TH. DATE OF DEATH UNKNOWN AS SHE WAS LIVING ALONE AND DIED IN HER SLEEP. IN ABSENCE OF NOK IN FRANCE EMBASSY TOOK STEPS FOR PROTECTION OF ESTATE. EMERGENCY ADDRESS IN U.S. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY PPT RECORDS: MRS. LUCILLE GREENWOOD, 526 LANIER CIRCLE, HUNTSVILLE, ALA., WAS NOTIFIED BY PHONE ON FEBRUARY 7, 1976. SHE ADVANCED \$700 TO PAY BURIAL EXPENSES, TO BE REPAID UPON SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE.

2. ON CONOFF'S VISIT TO APARTMENT NO WILL WAS LOCATED, ALTHOUGH IT WAS SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT. MRS. GREENWOOD SENT THIS EMBASSY A NOTARIZED STATEMENT THAT SHE WAS A FIRST COUSIN TO MISS BURCH AND NOK. HOWEVER, IN MISS BURCH'S PAPERS WERE PAPERS PERTAINING TO THE INHERITENCE OF AN ESTATE OF WHICH MISS BURCH WAS PARTIALLY AN HEIRESS. AMONG THESE PAPERS WAS ONE LISTING THE HEIRS OF HER AUNT, MARY REBECCA GEISSLER, SISTER TO MISS BURCH'S FATHER, LUTHER BURCH. ALSO LISTED WERE EIGHT OTHER HEIRS, ALL CHILDREN OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF BOTH MRS. GEISSLER AND MISS

BURCH'S FATHER. THEREFORE, THESE EIGHT OTHER HEIRS WOULD ALL BE COUSINS OF MISS BURCH. INCIDENTALLY. MRS. GREENWOOD, NOT INCLUDED IN THIS LIST, WOULD SEEM UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE MISS BURCH'S FIRST COUSIN ON THE MATERNAL SIDE.

3. MISS BURCH'S ESTATE CONSISTS OF FURNITURE, MANY PIECES OF WHICH MIGHT BE ANTIQUE, WEDGEWOOD CHINA, MANY PIECES OF SILVER, AN AUTOMOBILE AND AN UNCASHED CHECK FOR APPROXIMATELY \$4,500. THE ESTATE IS NOW IN THE APARTMENT IN WHICH MISS BURCH RESIDED. SINCE THIS IS A RENTAL PROPERTY, THE PROPRIETOR IS QUITE ANXIOUS THAT THE APARTMENT BE EMPTIED.

4. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE WITH WHOM EMBASSY CAN COMMUNICATE. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY RECEIVED MANY REQUESTS FROM FRIENDS OF MISS BURCH IN EUROPE TO PURCHASE ITEMS BELONGING TO THE ESTATE. THEREFORE, IF LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE LOCATED, SUGGEST HE SELECT COUNTERPART IN FRANCE, OR COME HIMSELF TO SETTLE ESTATE. IN MEANTIME, ALL PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT ESTATE AS PRESCRIBED IN 7 FAM HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED.

5. INFORM MRS. GREENWOOD OF CONTENTS AS DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE. EMBASSY WILL SEND HER LETTER EXPLAINING PROBLEM IN GENERAL TERMS.

6. DETAILED OM FOLLOWS.
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